

## O Summoner 1391

Chapter 1391 Token From A Princess I

[Do you wish to accept the Heart Flame Summoning skill from the Vermillion Bird?]

Adrian is stunned as it was indeed a powerful skill that summons the actual Vermillion Bird into battle or a clone of some kind. He could not believe that he would be offered a Mythical Tier skill just by telling stories of his adventures. In fact, Adrian could have gotten this skill some time ago if he fulfilled the hidden requirements.

The only reason that he did not get this skill back then is due to the fact that his body could not host the Heart Flame. He did not have Aether Energy back then in his body as Nether Energy would just corrode the Heart Flame since it is another life. He also did not have any sun or flame energy in his body back then, but the Blessing of the Sun made it possible.

"I would hate to decline your generous offer. The fact that you trust me enough to have a part of yourself means that you trust me with your life. I shall humbly accept the duty of protecting your life and would jump into danger should you also need my help in the future." Adrian replied as he accepted the offer.

The small flaming bird then flew towards Adrian and shot towards his heart. Inside of Adrian's heart is a small flame that burns warmly and gives him immense vitality. He could even feel his whole body becoming warm as if he is bathing in a hot spring but his body soon acclimated to this change.

[A Heart Flame has resided in your own heart.]

[Your body will never feel the cold.]

[You will become immune to the Frozen Status Ailment as a result.]

[Increased Flame Resistance by 10%.]

Adrian is shocked that he had more benefits than he thought. The fact that he became immune to the frozen status ailment meant that he could freely explore even the coldest places in the world. He could even survive getting near an actual sun at this rate. The Vermillion Bird smiled as it knew that its dear friend would not misuse its Heart Flame.

In fact, the Vermillion Bird is also benefiting from having a demon carry its Heart Flame. Should something happen to it once more, it could just revive itself with the Heart Flame that is stored in Adrian. Essentially, the Vermillion Bird just became a truly undying divine beast.

"Now that a part of me is in your heart, I can also see some of the things that you will encounter in the outside world. I hope that you have great adventures in my stead as I will now be with you during those adventures. Do not be shy in summoning me should you need my aid as I will gladly help you." The Vermillion Bird stated with a smile.

"Thank you for the gift once again." Adrian stated.

"Since I have already given you my gift, I guess I should also aid you in your troubles in the eastern continent. You said that you are looking for a special stone called the Sun Stone. A stone that

gathers sun energy and it should be located in the Imperial City of Hinomoto." The Vermillion Bird stated.

"Yes. We need it to aid the Sun God Ra in defeating the Distorted God Apophis. Could you perhaps gain us entry in the imperial city?" Adrian asked as the imperial family does have the protection of the four cardinal divine beasts and the Vermillion Bird is part of that group.

"I can grant you all access, but my word is not enough for that to happen. You need at least two of the divine beasts to give you permission to go there. I can give you permission but you need one more from a divine beast or a member of the imperial family." The Vermillion Bird stated.

"If that is the case then can the Heihudie clan help me in getting access?" Adrian asked.

"The Heihudie clan might be one of the most prominent information clans in the eastern continent but even they cannot move the imperial family or grant permissions. I do believe that a young mistress of the Heihudie clan has great friendship with a member of the imperial family.

If I am not wrong, then that Imperial Family member should be called Yinyue and is currently married to General Li. She is married to the lower district governor of Kunlun if I am not mistaken. You could request the assistance of that Young Mistress named Fei from the Heihudie clan as she is friends with that imperial family girl." The Vermillion Bird stated.

Adrian then rummaged through his inventory as he is familiar with the name Yinyue that the Vermillion Bird told him. He remembered that he help saved two ladies back then when they were attacked by bandits. The name of the two ladies were Fei and Yinyue with the latter being said to be married to General Li.

Adrian thought that it was too much of a coincidence that the names were exactly the same. He then saw the token that he was searching for as it had a special look in it. The token was shaped like a note as he remembered that the lady named Yinyue could attack using sound itself. She was called the Mistress of Sound by her guards if Adrian remembers correctly.

"Is this token from Yinyue?" Adrian stated as he presented the special token that was given to him.

The Vermillion Bird is shocked that Adrian has such a precious token. The token of the Mistress of Sound is equivalent to a token from a princess from the imperial family. Yinyue was adopted by the current emperor and is very much spoiled by him.

If General Li was not such a good and powerful individual, then the emperor himself would not have agreed to the marriage of the two. It is also a fact that General Li is the son of the closest advisor of the current emperor which is one of the reasons that the latter agreed.

## Chapter 1392 Token From A Princess II

"How did you get such a prized possession? Any person in the eastern continent would have died trying to get this token." The Vermillion Bird stated in shock as it could not believe that the elusive Princess Yinyue would actually give her token to someone else.

Adrian then explained how he got the token as he did not get it just by meeting the princess in question by chance. He was able to meet her by saving her from bandits but that was still a huge

stroke of luck from his side. Princess Yinyue is said to be very elusive and does not like to interact with other people.

Princess Yinyue is said to only interact with those that she has deemed as trustworthy. It is said that she has the ability to hear the hearts of people due to her special nature. General Li was not even the only one that wanted to become one with her as she is drop dead gorgeous upon seeing.

It is even said that General Li was not even that handsome of a fellow compared to his competitors, but he was the one chosen by the princess. Among the hundreds of men lined up to sought after the princess, it was only General Li that got the warm reception. It is even said that he was chosen because only his heart was pure of love for the princess which she heard from his heart sound as they call it.

The rumor that the princess could hear the sound of hearts is not just fabricated with just this story. It is said that she held this ability even as a small child as she was often the one that pointed out the traitors inside the family. She was also present when the current emperor would meet people as she could detect the lies and deception from their hearts.

"He has that kind of luck where he is attracted to unlucky and burdensome things but he conquers them with ingenuity and dedication." Levin Cloud blurted out as that what often happens to Adrian even in real life.

"Hey! Even I hate burdensome things you know." Adrian rebuked but he also knows that it often happens to him.

"Anyways, it should be impossible for the princess to be attacked by bandits easily. She should have her own secret guard that the emperor himself appointed. I am not doubting your story but that should not be the case if we are speaking about the Mistress of Sound." The Vermillion Bird stated as Adrian's story did not mention any secret guard.

"I was not able to ask about what really happened as I only saw them like that." Adrian replied as he did not stick around after he sent Yinyue to the lower district of Kunlun where she met with her betrothed.

"Maybe the secret guards were already fighting the hidden expert that was the mastermind of the bandit attack. You did say that their charm lost the power to disperse the eyes of others. You did not see the hidden guards because they were battling another mighty foe!" Kabrakan stated as he speculated of what happened from the many novels that he read.

All of them looked at him and wanted to rebuke his story but they could not do so. His story might be plausible enough that it might be true if what the Vermillion Bird says about Princess Yinyue is true. Adrian did feel that the normal guards around the Yinyue back then were rather weak, or they might have become weak due to an unknown influence.

Adrian then tried to remember, and the bandits did know martial arts. He always thought that bandits should just be ruffians. Bandits back then never targeted anyone with great influence but the lowly masses and merchants. Even bandits knew that they would be exterminated if they targeted the son or daughter of a noble or anyone of power.

"Anyways, if this is the token of the princess then could I use it to enter the Imperial City of Hinomoto?" Adrian asked.

"You will be able to do so but you could also be sent straight to the prison. If you only used that then they might claim that you forged an important token of a member of the imperial family. Fret not my dear friend as I will send you with a token of my own and even send note to the emperor himself.

I have enjoyed our story session this time and the stories from your dear friends are also great to hear. The close friends of my dear friend are also my friends as well." The Vermillion Bird stated as notifications popped up for Levin Cloud, Kabrakan and Peridot.

All three earned the Friend of a Divine Beast title which they greatly appreciated. They liked the fact that they could not easily traverse the southern part of the eastern continent without much difficulty as they have the Vermillion Bird as their backer.

"I would like to ask a question to the great Vermillion Bird if that is fine with you." Peridot stated as she wanted to ask the Vermillion Bird if it knows something about what is happening in the eastern continent.

"If you are asking about the ones that are hunting the Ryujin then even, I do not know. The Ryujin are the safeguards of the eastern continent as they are usually the ones that creates balance. Your race is also the only reason why the whole eastern continent is not embroiled in total war right now.

The fact that there are beings that could threaten a powerful race such as yourself then it only means that they must have a demigod backing them at the very least. Even, the four divine beasts, have started to wonder what type of hidden power has sprung up as we could feel that our influence is also starting to slowly dwindle." The Vermillion Bird stated.

The four went out of the tower with another question but they have an answer to their current struggle.

### Chapter 1393 Token From A Princess III

"The Vermillion Bird already sent word of our arrival. The only problem now would be how to travel to the Imperial City of Hinomoto. We are a very easy conspicuous group that even I find us a bit odd here despite the eastern continent having different races as well." Levin Cloud stated.

"We can use Polymorph, right? Adrian asked.

All of four of them then laughed a bit as they actually forgot that they were using this skill full on when they hid themselves from the public eye. They did not do it now because they are quite well-known and that they no longer need to hide.

"Even if we used Polymorph, the fact that we are traveling would still be a problem as encountering something would just expose us immediately. We cannot fight that much in a polymorphed state after all and word travels fast here in the eastern continent." Peridot stated as there should already be news of their appearances in the southern part of the eastern continent.

"You are right as vanishing now would mean that we have left the area. We are not even sure if all the eyes that are observing us are friendly or waiting for us to lower our guard." Kabrakan stated as he could feel the stares of numerous people that hide in the crowd.

"We should head to that tea house then." Adrian stated as he pointed at a tea house where there is a small mark of a black butterfly.

The four of them then entered the tea house and they could still feel the gazes of others following them until they went inside. Adrian then bowed to the server that greeted them and showed the token he had discretely. The server noticed the token and immediately escorted them to a special section within the tea house.

The three are stunned that Adrian is actually treating them to such a luxurious area within the tea house. Even though the food is only virtual, the prices in hot places are still astronomical. The high prices are due to the fact that there is a hidden benefit in food which could randomly increase one's stats.

Players right now are having difficulty grinding for stats as some are already in high levels. The only thing that could bypass that would be eating special meals. In fact, one famous chef player that is said to have the ability to increase the stat gain of players by one point each day is selling like crazy. That one stat point could be continuously accumulated per day per player.

"Please head inside. The mistress will meet you after a few minutes." The server stated as she bowed gracefully and headed out of the luxurious room.

"You did not say that you are treating us. I bet this place is very expensive. Look at those decorations! They look like they would cost at least a thousand gold each." Levin Cloud stated.

"I am flattered that you think so dear guest but the ornaments were only bought using one silver coin each." An alluring female voice stated as a fully dressed hostess came out. The most striking feature that she has is her hair that is tied using a butterfly hairpin.

"I greet the great benefactor of the Heihudie clan." The hostess stated as she bowed deeply towards Adrian. She even used both her hands and forehead to touch the ground to show him honor.

"I am flattered but you do not need to show excessive respect as it is too much for me." Adrian stated as the hostess looked like she was older than him.

"I am in awe of the benefactor's humility. This was the custom told us when we meet you as per the orders of our head mistress." The hostess answered.

"Oh ho! So...this is what you like huh!" Peridot teased.

"Never mind then. I am here because I need your aid to get to the Imperial City of Hinomoto without making the eyes watching us know that we have left or at least stall them long enough before they noticed something." Adrian stated.

"I see. There have been many eyes ever since you have entered the Vermillion City. We have a passageway that leads outside of the city that the benefactor can use. If you use that then you can leave undetected by prying eyes." The hostess stated.

"The only problem are the ones that have locked onto our aura then." Adrian stated.

"To think that they would use such skilled trackers! As expected of the benefactor!" The hostess stated with great enthusiasm as if it was a moment of great celebration.

"We are getting tracked using our auras!? How come I cannot feel it?" Peridot stated in shock as she was trained to sense if she was being followed using her aura.

"They are very skilled since they could also hide from the Vermillion Bird, but I bet the latter just does not care as they are not doing anything bad. I felt the spell stick to us the moment we went outside of the bell tower. It is honestly such a creepy feeling like small bugs are crawling all over me." Adrian stated.

The hostess is shocked by the benefactor's great sensitivity as only great masters can feel the way he is feeling right now. She excused herself for a few moments as she went to fetch the items that will help the benefactor. The hostess returned carrying a purple box with an insignia of a purple butterfly instead of a black butterfly.

"I have brought an item that might help the benefactor with his predicament for a small price of one hundred gold." The hostess stated.

"Deal." Adrian stated.

"You do not even know what it is." Levin Cloud exclaimed.

"They have never presented me with a bad deal before. The fact that she could solve our professional problems with a hundred gold is already a steal." Adrian stated.

"That is already a great discount dear guest as the normal price for these are five hundred gold each." The hostess stated as she opened the box.

#### Chapter 1394 Faux Mana Caterpillar I

The hostess opened the box and revealed four caterpillar monsters that are very big compared to normal ones. The caterpillars are about five inches long and at least two inches in diameter. They also have an appearance that can be described as both cute and ugly.

"These are called Faux Mana Caterpillars." The hostess stated as Adrian looked at the description of the monsters.

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Monster Name: Faux Mana Caterpillar

Monster Type: Insect Familia

Monster Species: Mana Caterpillar

Tier: Epic

Level: 100

HP: 100%

MP: 100%

Description: A special species of the mana caterpillar that is said to relish the mana of other beings. It can devour the mana of other beings and copy their specific mana signature for a few hours. It is said to even copy the auras of powerful monsters in order to intimidate those that want to prey on them.

They are said to be extremely delicious to bird monsters which is why they are an endangered species. It is said that they are also very picky of their habitat as they must feel extremely comfortable to even live there. If they are not comfortable then they might die of stress.

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The Faux Mana Caterpillar is a large caterpillar that has a purplish body with green tints on its side. It also releases some kind of smoke but it is actually its body eating the mana in its surroundings. It might be an insect monster, but it is also extremely smart when compared to the others.

"The Faux Mana Caterpillar is this monster's name. It did not get the faux part of its name because it is fake but its ability to create a fake copy of another's mana signature. It also has the ability to devour the mark that was placed on your bodies along with some of your mana signature." The hostess revealed.

Adrian nodded as he is extremely pleased with this result and paid the gold needed. The hostess then told them that they must move the mana into the Faux Mana Caterpillar themselves so that it could create a copy of their unique mana signatures. She also warned them to be gentle as they would want the Faux Mana Caterpillar to not be stressed.

If the Faux Mana Caterpillar is stressed, then it would not copy their mana signature for the maximum duration which is six hours. They must get the maximum duration as they would want to stall for as long a time as possible. The hostess also took out some charms that the four stamped with a drop of their blood.

Adrian then taught them how to condense their mana into a small ball. They must give the Faux Mana Caterpillar exactly a thousand mana points for the maximum duration to happen. Adrian condensed his mana into a small ball that is the size of a marble.

A small blue ball condensed on Adrian's palm but it soon took on the special characteristics that his mana has. Adrian's mana contains both nether and aether energy which have six distinct colors which shows on his mana orb. The Faux Mana Caterpillar that is placed in front of Adrian could be seen moving slowly towards his mana orb.

The Faux Mana Caterpillar crawled with great enthusiasm as it opened its mouth and devoured the mana orb that Adrian presented it. The Faux Mana Caterpillar then started to jiggle its body as if it became happy with what it was fed. Its purple and green body then started to change its color to that of the signature colors of nether and aether energy.

Adrian looked at the Faux Mana Caterpillar and is intrigued by this information. He took a mental note to look into the monster called the Faux Mana Caterpillar. If it could eat his energy like that then they might be a great a great soulbound as he always wanted to at least get one insect soulbound. He looked at it clearly and saw that the body segments actually got split but the Faux Mana Caterpillar is alive and well.

The others saw how Adrian did it and copied with him. Levin Cloud's mana orb took on the characteristics of death and life energy as he is the Envoy of the Twin Gods. The Faux Mana Caterpillar that he fed it to also changed in color to the shade of black and amber that life and death energy uses. A unique transformation even occurred as its body looked like it transformed to a more plant like look.

Peridot did the same and her mana orb came with the specific colors of the four elements that she can control. Her Faux Mana Caterpillar also changed into four colors. Its body also changed to convey the four elements that it has on its body. Hair on its back sprouted like fire, its lower body became more liquid, small wings sprouted on its back while its tail took on a more boulder like appearance.

Kabrakan's Faux Mana Caterpillar did not change in color much, but it had a drastic change in appearance. Its body increased by half while it took on a more feral appearance as if it regressed back into its savage era ancestor. Spikes could be seen covering its body while its teeth became fangs and it even cutely roars.

The hostess is shocked upon seeing the drastic transformations of the Faux Mana Caterpillar. The Heihudie clan already experimented with them, and they were only known to change their colors but these four changed their appearance. She acted professional though as she knew that the changes on the Faux Mana Caterpillar are only temporary. The changes only last for six hours at most.

"Congratulations! I shall now place the charms with your drop of blood on your respective Faux Mana Caterpillars." The hostess stated as she placed the charms on the Faux Mana Caterpillars.

The four friends then saw the four Faux Mana Caterpillars change to their forms as if they got a body double. To make it even more mystical, the four copies feel and even smell like them.

#### Chapter 1395 Faux Mana Caterpillar II

"They look and even smell like us." Kabrakan stated as he is the one with the best senses among them. His nose can even rival that of a blood hound despite being a bull beast man.

"They are just illusions as the real bodies are still the Faux Mana Caterpillar. Fascinating!" Adrian stated as his inner monster lover suddenly started to flare up.

"Enough of that. Has the tracking auras been successfully transferred to the little critters?" Levin Cloud asked as he wants to get to the Imperial City of Hinomoto as soon as possible.

"Yes. The tracking auras have been transferred completely to them but that must also mean we must hide ours while we are traversing the secret passageway. We must make sure that we have not caught up to them." Adrian stated as all of them nodded in response.

Almost of them were taught to hide their mana signatures except for Kabrakan. The Selvaggians are not really a race that is known for being discreet. They would rather brute force their way into the battle than secretly stalks their prey. Some of them are secretive but that is only a handful of their species and the bull clan is sadly not one of them.

"Here take this." Adrian stated as he passed a talisman towards Kabrakan.

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Item Name: Concealing Talisman

Tier: Epic

Item Type: Consumable Talisman

Effect:

- Conceals the user's mana signature and gives them a slight presence reduction effect.
- The effects disappear once the user enters a battle or is hit by an attack.
- The user cannot use spells or skill while the effect is active or else it will be dispelled.

Cast Time: Instant

Cooldown: 15 minutes

Duration: 1 day or until the effect breaks

Description: An epic grade talisman that is created by an up-and-coming scribe that is starting to get known in the world. He would have become more known if he focused more on his scribe duties as this talisman was made with the intent for it to be a higher grade. Although defective, this talisman is still very useful.

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"Ignore the description. Just use it on yourself while we go inside the hidden passageway." Adrian stated as he is a bit embarrassed by the item description. He already knows that he failed in creating a legendary talisman but the game devs (Author's note: it is the AI generating the descriptions though) must be rubbing salt on his wounds with that description.

"Thanks!" Kabrakan stated as the hostess stood up from her seat and directed the four to come over to the other side of the room. The four copies or rather the four Faux Mana Caterpillar that ate their mana were left in the previous room. It seems that the four were not moving from their location as the body copy is only an illusion.

The other side of the luxurious room that they were in was rather plain and dull. The only thing that they could see were paper walls decorated with butterfly brush strokes. The hostess then did a small dance as if she was performing a prayer.

When the hostess danced, Adrian could feel that the room is filled with a sweet scent and mana swirled around as well. The butterfly paintings on the paper walls started to actually detach itself from the paper walls as if they are coming alive. All the painted butterflies then gathered towards the wall in front of them and created a large black butterfly painting.

When the large black butterfly painting was created, the paper wall itself started to dissolve. As the paper wall dissolved, a tunnel that leads to the outside could be seen. The four are in awe of this presentation as even Levin Cloud could feel that this tunnel was not there.

Levin Cloud could feel the surrounding nature and he knows that there was no tunnel there. Adrian is amazed because he could feel that there was a slight shift in space but it was very minor to the

point that he would not feel it. If he was not looking attentively then he would have missed that shift.

"Secret information clans are really awesome!" Peridot muttered as the other nodded in agreement.

"We should totally install something equivalent to this." Kabrakan added.

"You guys already have pocket dimensions. You can edit the way you guys enter your own homes." Adrian stated as this feature was not impossible for the pocket dimension homes but it is pricey. The other three are shocked as they did not think that this was possible, but Adrian warned them that it would only be an aesthetic and have no real value.

"Please have a safe journey. This tunnel should take you at most an hour to traverse but it will lead you to a small shrine outside of Vermillion City. To make sure that your observers do not take notice of you successfully, I believe that you must traverse towards the imperial city for two hours after exiting this tunnel." The hostess stated as she gave a bow to the four.

"Thank you very much for the help." Adrian stated and the others thanked her as well.

"It is my pleasure to help the benefactor of the clan." The hostess stated as the paper wall started to return to its former state. The hole that they entered was no more as the last thing they saw was the smiling face of the hostess.

"Let us go." Adrian stated as all of them walked to the path that they were given. They talked on their way out to pass the time, but they were discussing what was happening on the western continent.

They could see that the western continent fights have become increasingly savage. The Shadow of Apophis and the players were clashing with each other every three hours as they attempted to slow the progression of the serpent towards the Temple of Bastet.

The players were doing great work though as they seem to have found a special artifact that could create a barrier. It managed to trap the Shadow of Apophis for three days.

## Chapter 1396 Towards Hinomoto

While the four were traversing the tunnel, they also talked about the progress in the western continent. They cannot run at full force as they might unconsciously leak out some of their mana. If that happens then all their prior preparations would have gone into smoke.

They walked but the pace was still fast enough since their stats are quite high. They reviewed the footage of a player from the top guild named Infernum where Siegfried is the guild leader. It seems that one of their core players have gotten some sort of inheritance in the western continent as she was dressed like a pharaoh.

She looked incredibly dazzling in her gold studded appearance and long dress. She is even surrounded by golden warriors or at least something to that extent. She is being served like a true queen of the western continent as she is lavished with gold gifts and surrounded by sturdy guards.

Her main weapon is actually a golden ankh that can produce some sort of golden force fields that have varying effects. The thing that she used in trapping the Shadow of Apophis is an artifact that looked like a golden pyramid. It was a golden pyramid that is one foot in height that shines when sunlight hits it.

She tossed this golden pyramid upwards, and it created a powerful barrier that trapped all of the enemies that she wants inside it for three whole days. Even the upgraded Shadow of Apophis cannot break this barrier with pure force. Even Lebou, the vessel of Shesmu, cannot break through the isolated area that the artifact created.

The player was named Cleo and she is actually one of the rulers of a small city in the western continent. It seems that the Infernum guild made sure that she ascends as a ruler of a town at first which eventually led to a city. She is also dubbed by her own citizens as the Holy Pharoah as she saved them from hunger and death which is very common in the western continent.

The four also noted that she seem to have some sort of divine aura within her but the others do not notice. Adrian also observed that she seems to be a vessel of a god as per the way she is dressed. The god or goddess that she serves is not known but she has similar clothing to the High Priestess Bastet.

"It seems she used a powerful artifact to trap the Shadow of Apophis temporarily. Judging by the power of that item, it might actually be a one use only item. It did not reappear on her hand when she used it." Levin Cloud stated.

"I agree but trapping a powerful army like that is something that is very useful even if they could only use it now." Adrian stated as he also noticed that the Infernum guild started their bombardment of the area with spells and skills.

The Infernum guild thought of this plan or rather Faust thought of this plan to ensure that they can deal great damage to the Shadow of Apophis. The isolation barrier only hindered their enemies but they can still attack from the outside. The enemies inside could either sling their attacks from their current location or defend themselves from incoming danger.

A volley of spells could be seen being thrown towards the entrapped army of the Shadow of Apophis. The monsters that were trapped with them died from the bombardment and the Shadow of Apophis was damaged to a great degree but Lebou was there along with the followers of Shesmu.

The followers of Shesmu healed the heavy injuries of the Shadow of Apophis while the latter devoured some of the monsters in its army. The Shadow of Apophis recovered back to full health with just that. Seeing that the world boss was not one to easily take a beatdown, they bombarded the Shadow of Apophis every two hours.

The groups that bombarded the Shadow of Apophis could be seen getting tired but their efforts started to shine. The followers of Shesmu cannot continuously heal the Shadow of Apophis as they would also run out of mana. This will continue on for three days straight until the followers of Shesmu can no longer heal the Shadow of Apophis.

"I guess they have a solid plan. I just hope that it will go on without any interruptions." Kabrakan stated.

"I see light up ahead." Peridot exclaimed as she pointed at the source of light from afar.

Seeing the light, the four quickened the pace of their steps but made sure that they do not let out any of their mana from their excitement. Just as the hostess told them, they came out from behind a

small shrine that is surrounded by shrubbery. The shrubs are even masking the exit that they came out of.

When all four of them were outside, Adrian could feel that space shifted a little and the tunnel that they were in is no longer in its previous location. It seems that the passage is also special just like the way to enter it. Adrian hypothesizes that there are multiple exits, but this was the exit that the hostess chose for them.

From their location, they could still see the bell tower, but it is incredibly far away. If the bell tower was not extremely tall for a building, then they might not have seen it. Unlike what the hostess told them, the path that they took seem to be at least three hours away from the Vermillion City.

"We should hurry up and enter in the direction of the Alluring Woods. If we go there then the special properties of that place can hide our mana signatures. The only problem is the fact that we can get lost in that area as well. I have traversed that path, but I was escorted by my guards which is why I only know the general direction." Peridot stated as she knows the eastern continent general areas.

"Why is it called Alluring Woods?" Kabrakan asked.

"That place is home to a special kind of plant called the Allurer. It is a special toxic plant that can create hallucinogens that makes one see visions." Peridot stated.

"That does not seem that bad since we have Levin Cloud here." Kabrakan stated.

"It is not a normal plant as it is a monster plant. It uses hallucinogens to make sure their prey does not know that they are already being swallowed whole and digested inside their body." Peridot added which made Kabrakan's jaw drop.

"The hallucinogens have the property to disperse mana of the victims?" Adrian asked.

"Yes. I thought you did not know but that is the case. We can use our mana if we use that path as the scattered hallucinogens would just disperse our mana signatures. The only thing that we need to consider is the fact that we can only apply mana on ourselves as spells that use targeting will not be casted properly.

The Alluring Woods are often used by some immortals to train their student's body. They only go to the outskirts of that forest though which means we will be safe from being spotted if we enter." Peridot stated as she knew that they could use that path to go straight towards the Imperial City of Hinomoto.

"We can but that also means that we will be monster plant food if we are not careful." Kabrakan stated.

"I think it is a risk we need to take. The faster that we can verify the sun stone then the faster we can get out of the eastern continent. If we can even steal... or rather retrieve the sun stone then we would be able to say that our mission is a success." Adrian stated.

"If that is the consensus then who am I to say no. Just make sure to keep me safe as I am easily affected by status ailments that is related to the minds. It is a downside of being a Selvaggian." Kabrakan stated.

"At least, you would be eaten by a beautiful flower maiden as that is what the Allurer's form is." Peridot added.

"Really!" Kabrakan exclaimed.

"Uhuh! That is their form until they reveal what they really look like which is a poisonous plant that has rows of sharp spikes inside their mouths." Peridot stated with a laugh which made Kabrakan shiver as he imagined himself in that situation.

All four of them then went inside the thick forest that has a special pink mist that surrounds everything inside. Levin Cloud's senses flared up as he knew the peculiarity of this forest as it seems to be trying to captivate him. He could even feel that the soil itself was trying to capture his heart as if it was seducing him.

"I think we chose the wrong location." Levin Cloud stated as he felt the presences coming towards them. Giggles of what seems like females could be heard inside the forest and Peridot already knew what those are.

#### Chapter 1397 The Alluring Forest I

[You have activated a hidden quest in the Alluring Forest.]

Levin Cloud is surprised by the sudden notification that filled his screen. The others did not receive this notification as this was a race specific quest that is only accessible to him. It is also the reason why ten Allurers are now rushing towards their current location.

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Quest Name: Meet the Queen of the Alluring Forest

Quest Difficulty: C

Quest Description: Your presence has alerted the hidden queen of the Alluring Forest. She is calling you to her side as she is in need of your help. She has sent some of her subjects to fetch you.

Clear Condition: Meet the Queen of the Alluring Forest

Clear Reward: Gain increase mastery in Guardian of the Forest skill

Failure Condition: None

Failure: The Alluring Forest might turn into something else.

Duration: 1 day

Restriction: This is a quest only available to the Faekin race and they must be the first Faekin to step foot in the Alluring Forest.

Note: This is a chain quest, but it cannot be shared to others.

==

"I think I just received a quest to help a monster in this forest." Levin Cloud stated as the rest of them prepared for battle as they could see enemies approaching.

The ten monsters that approached them were none other than the dreaded Allurers that is a monster that should be avoided in the Alluring Forest. The Allurers were true to their name as they release a special pink mist that gives hallucinogenic effect but the ten present did not afflict the party with their hallucinogenic mists.

With the Allurers being docile and not emitting bloodlust, all of them stood down as Levin Cloud did say that he received a quest regarding this forest. If he did then they must help him if it is urgent and Levin Cloud explained that he cannot pass up the reward. The reward was a mastery increase in his skill called Guardian of the Forest which helps him control plant life.

All of them agreed to help him as long as they can finish it within the day as the others are not yet reporting anything. Since they decided to accept the quest, the Allurers that were on standby waited for Levin Cloud to talk to them. Levin Cloud talked in a language that none of them understood as it was a special skill called Forest Tongue which enables him to speak with plant life.

The Allurers smiled or at least the humanoid part sticking out of their flower bodies. The humanoid looking part of the Allurers took the form of beautiful maidens wearing kimonos but that is not even a real part of their body. It is a part of their stomach that they inflate and mix with their hallucinogenic mists to create the illusion of a maiden.

The real body of the Allurer are the walking flower bodies that are present below them. Most of the unfortunate souls that come across them are too late to realize that the maiden they met has the lower half of a flower. The lower half is often covered in the pink mist to create an illusion that it is just being hidden.

The Allurers that they encountered were not hungry which they are thankful for. They were led to a deep part of the Alluring Forest that even Peridot does not recognize but she could tell that the area is at the center. If they run for about an hour in a northern direction then they would be able to get out of this forest. She made sure to tell this to the party as this path would be more of a shortcut than the one that they were going to use.

The Allurers then suddenly stopped as all of them were now in front of a gigantic pink chrysanthemum that is the size of a house. The Allurers then bowed to this gigantic pink chrysanthemum and went to the sides. The four observed the gigantic pink chrysanthemum as it was closed up but Levin Cloud spoke something and all the petal suddenly started to move.

[You have completed the quest of Meet the Queen of the Alluring Forest.]

[Your skill, Guardian of the Forest, has increased in mastery.]

"Greetings, travelers and distinguished guest." An alluring female voice suddenly stated as all the petals of the gigantic pink chrysanthemum opened up.

A beautiful female ghost like entity came out of the gigantic pink chrysanthemum or rather was produced by the flower. The female ghost like entity is none other than the soul of the gigantic pink chrysanthemum which is called the Alluring Queen of the Forest. It was none other than a special plant monster that has gained immense sentience.

"Greetings, forest queen. Why did you have your underlings call upon me?" Levin Cloud stated.

"Oh! Great Guardian of the Forest! I plea for your help!" The Alluring Queen of the Forest stated as she look like she is crying.

The current form of the Alluring Queen of the Forest or its spirit is extremely beautiful. One look at its aching heart will make anyone long for it to stop crying. A total simp would even lay down their life then and there for its happiness.

The female spirit form of the Alluring Queen of the Forest has extremely fair skin with a pinkish tone as it is a gigantic pink chrysanthemum looking flower. The spirit also has long beautiful flowing rose pink hair like a goddess and it was wearing a simple red kimono that is decorated with pink chrysanthemums. One look at her may even make others believe that she is a goddess that descended to the land.

"What kind of help do you need?" Levin Cloud asked but Adrian suddenly interjected.

"She is dying." Adrian stated as he could see the state of the soul of the Alluring Queen of the Forest.

"She might have failed in succeeding in her tribulation." Peridot stated as she knows how intelligent monsters operate in the eastern continent.

## Chapter 1398 The Alluring Forest II

"You mean to say that this plant monster was cultivating? Awesome! But how can it cultivate if it is a plant?" Kabrakan asked.

"It is not strange for even sentient plant life to be able to cultivate in the eastern continent as long as they have the bloodline for it. It might have had an ancestor that was an immortal that cultivated from a plant monster. Still, monsters that can cultivate are extremely rare as they were hunted down back then to be either used as pets or materials." Peridot stated.

"It is not a secret that a Ryujin would not know of the state of my affairs but I do not need your help. Please, great guardian! Help me!?" The Alluring Queen of the Forest stated as she softly fell into Levin Cloud's arms which made Peridot raise an eyebrow.

"I can help send you back to the creator if that is what you want! I can easily burn you in this location with one attack!" Peridot stated as she started to conjure up a fireball but Levin Cloud pacified her.

"Even if he helps you, you cannot go against the flow of life. Even the immortals that you know of will reach the end of their lifespans after a thousand years as they were never truly immortal. No one is truly immortal as all things die because even gods can die." Adrian stated.

"Please help me!" The Alluring Queen of the Forest stated as she looked like she is about to cry. A notification then popped up along with the next quest for Levin Cloud.

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Quest Name: Help the Queen of the Alluring Forest?

Quest Difficulty: B

Quest Description: The Queen of the Alluring Forest has failed in ascending to an immortal and was mortally wounded during her tribulation. She is asking for your help as she wants to live due to a small unknown reason that she is not telling you.

Clear Condition: Help save the Queen of the Alluring Forest from her impending death.

Clear Reward: Gain increase mastery in Guardian of the Forest skill

Failure Condition: The Queen of the Alluring Forest dies.

Failure: The Alluring Forest might turn into something else.

Duration: 1 day

Restriction: This is a quest only available to the Faekin race and they must be the first Faekin to step foot in the Alluring Forest.

Note: This is a chain quest, but it cannot be shared to others.

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"Why do you want to live anyway? Do you not know why the immortals always regarded cultivation as going against the heavens? Dying from failure is also part of it because that is just how it works. If there is no death in cultivation then this world would have been flooded with immortals by now.

Just be a good plant and accept your death like someone with pride has. You knew the risks of cultivating which means you were also ready for death." Peridot stated as she knew that she is basically asking them to also take punishment for her.

"What would happen if Levin Cloud helped her?" Adrian asked.

"The heavens will punish us with divine lightning as we will also be subjected to tribulation. It is not just him that will get it but also us since we also knew of her circumstances. She basically endangered us by telling us of her state.

Still, she would not have that much danger in a tribulation because she is a plant. Monsters often attain flesh if they succeed but that also means that they will lose some of their cultivation as they will become a being close to a human. Why did you fail?" Peridot stated.

"It might be due to her heavy blood aura that surrounds her. It seems that she has killed a lot of lives which also held grudges. Does that add to the difficulty?" Adrian stated as he could see the grudges of the dead swirling around her.

"If that is the case then it is true as it is said that those that cultivated the lives of others will face greater wrath from heaven. She must have failed because of that reason. She is not a good being which means she is really destined to die. Let us just leave her but that is just my opinion." Peridot stated with a firm stance.

"Why do you want to badly live despite doing evil deeds onto others?" Levin Cloud asked the Queen of the Alluring Forest.



The Queen of the Alluring Forest did not want to answer despite Levin Cloud asking clearly. Seeing that she did not want to answer, Levin Cloud started to turn away but the Queen of the Alluring Forest pleaded greatly. She even bowed her head towards the ground until it touched it.

"Please help me! I want to become human for the man that I love." The Queen of the Alluring Forest stated as she knew that this was her only chance.

The Queen of the Alluring Forest knew that she would be able to live for a year at the very least. It was such great fortune in her end that she was able to hang on for her life this long. She failed the tribulation a year ago and she hid it when a powerful thunderstorm was happening in her area.

She needed to hide the tribulation as she knew that other immortals would hunt her down should they know her location. What she did not expect is that the thunderstorm amplified the power of her tribulation that was already strong. She was confident that she would survive her tribulation but the amplified one had other results.

If she knew that she would fall in love with a mortal man, then she would not have eaten the lives of those that wandered in her forest. She would have just cultivated quietly and sucked some of their life force instead. The Queen of the Alluring Forest knew that this might be her only chance which is why she decided to pour her heart out.

#### Chapter 1399 The Alluring Forest III

The sudden confession that the Queen of the Alluring Forest did not tug the heart strings of the Levin Cloud nor Adrian. They knew that she would not be redeemed that easily even though she might be saved. If she cultivates once more, the punishment for her tribulation would still be the same and she would be in a more weakened state.

"We should help her!" The Peridot stated as her eyes could be seen to have small tears forming.

Levin Cloud and Adrian are dumbfounded as she was the one that was vehemently against helping her in the first place. She suddenly did a sudden turned around when she heard that the Queen of the Alluring Forest is trying to become an immortal due to a man that she loves.

"I thought that you did not even want to help her. With all the punishment of the heavens and going against it is part of the journey of being an immortal and all." Adrian stated.

"Never underestimate a maiden's heart! I know of your struggles and I promise that I will help you as I also have love in my heart!" Peridot stated.

"She is watching those period dramas again and I think she is getting swept in the act. No wonder the dialogue that she said earlier was familiar as we watched that from a wuxia drama." Levin Cloud stated as he could piece together the things that Peridot stated earlier.

"It is not you that will help her though but us. Why are you saying that you will help her?" Adrian asked.

"Oh! I will make sure that you guys help her as I know that you have your ways in navigating through life and death. Arbiter of the Underworld!" Peridot stated as she told the title that is given to Adrian whenever he is in the underworld.

"We can help her but it comes at a high cost. It might not just be the tribulation that she suffered that we will be penalized by. At least, not you two but Adrian and I will be in for a challenge." Levin Cloud stated as even he knows that messing with the life cycle of another being is not easy or comes without consequences.

"If there are consequences then Kabrakan and I will naturally help you." Peridot stated.

"I recorded that statement so that you will not lose your word. Do not regret what you said because you will reap what you sowed." Adrian stated as he nodded towards Levin Cloud.

"Why did I get caught up in this when I was just observing from a distance." Kabrakan grumbled as he deflated.

Adrian and Levin Cloud then suddenly changed their forms to their forms that coincide with death. Levin Cloud's handsome wood elf like appearance suddenly changed into a dark elf like appearance as his lush leafy hair turned into a decrepit vine ensemble. Adrian changed to his Netheros form and started to create the magic circle to call upon the God of Death that has authority in the eastern continent.

"I call upon the God of Death that has full authority in the eastern continent. I call upon you to give a chance to this pitiful being that is close to death's embrace." Adrian stated as his chant is followed up by other words that cannot be determined by the ears of others as it was in another language.

"Blessing of Life... Blessing of Death... Everything lives and everything dies. This humble servant that is the mortal representatives of the great gods of life and death gives this offering for I shall undergo a ritual that defies this delicate balance." Levin Cloud stated as he suddenly cut his palm and let his blood drop into the magic circle that Adrian created.

The Queen of the Alluring Forest, Peridot and Kabrakan were watching them do this ritual and they could feel their skin having goosebumps. The air that was already low in temperature dropped more than ten times. The whistling wind that produced noise suddenly became quiet while the clouds that move in the sky halted.

The hearts of everyone in the area started to beat wildly as the two beings related to life and death are calling upon a powerful being that could reverse the death of a being that failed to cultivate to immortality. Even the people that were training at the edge of the Alluring Forest could feel that the forest is different today.

The heavy aura that the forest creates has become even denser as even those at the edge feel that they are being choked. All those that were inside and even at the edge of the forest retreated as they fear that the Allurers might attack them regardless of location. The Queen of the Alluring Forest knew that this commotion might attract the immortals which is why she sent her army to go to the very edge of the forest to intimidate them.

Once the Allurers were at the edge of the forest, the people that saw them thought that these monsters just went crazy or are incredibly hungry. All of the people were advised to not step foot inside the Alluring Forest for the time being. With the distraction being successful, the Queen of the Alluring Forest sighed with relief as they would not be disturbed.

Both Adrian and Levin Cloud suddenly stopped chanting because they already knew that someone has answered their call. From Levin Cloud's blood, a gate from the underworld sprouted up that is created by dead plants and vines. A hellish red portal is then presented before all of them as a being with immense power walked out of the portal.

A man with red skin and fiery eyebrows came out of the gate with a scroll and an ink set. He looked extremely intelligent as he had the stance of a scholar and even the clothes of one. The only thing that distinguished him from being a scholar is his golden crown with his initials attached. The Queen of the Alluring Forest immediately knelt down upon seeing the being that was summoned.

#### Chapter 1400 The Alluring Forest IV

"King Yama!" The Queen of the Alluring Forest stated as she prostrated before the God of the Death that they have summoned.

"To be summoned by the Champion of the Twin Gods and the Envoy of the Twin Gods is such a high honor for one such as myself." King Yama stated with a very respectable voice but he is also known for his fierce attitude which is why it is known that they should never anger him.

"Greeting, King Yama. Apologies for the sudden call as we are in need of your aid." Adrian and Levin Cloud stated simultaneously.

"This King of the Underworld would like to hear the requests of the blessed ones but I already have a guess on what you want to ask of me." King Yama stated as he looked towards the Queen of the Alluring Forest.

"It is what you think." Adrian stated.

"We need you to help that poor soul that time is running out." Levin Cloud added.

"It might be an honor to be summoned to the mortal realm but reversing the life cycle of that being must not be done. She has failed in her tribulation and is supposed to die as is written in my own copy of the Book of the Dead." King Yama stated as he presented the large scroll that he brought as his copy of the book of the dead.

"You said that it MUST not be done." Adrian exclaimed.

"If that is what you mean then it can be done but not without something return." Levin Cloud added.

"It is what the blessed ones say. She can be saved but she must sacrifice something in order to survive. With the weight of the lives bearing down upon her, she would have to sacrifice almost everything she has achieved." King Yama stated.

"Queen of the Alluring Forest! You have heard the God of Death." Adrian stated.

"You must offer your all in exchange for your life." Levin Cloud added.

"Can you guys be more specific? We cannot understand you if you speak in riddles or vague sentences." Peridot stated as she is starting to have a headache just deciphering the words.

"She must sacrifice all her cultivation and become a normal plant monster for her to survive." King Yama stated clearly which made the Queen of the Alluring Forest dread that reality.

If she were to become a normal plant monster, then her beloved would no longer visit her at her meetups. She would also lose the love that she has because she knows that a human will never love a plant monster like her.

"Choose your next words wisely. It shall decide your fate." King Yama stated as Peridot looked downtrodden.

Peridot wanted to ask Adrian or Levin Cloud if there are other ways, but they could not vocalize as King Yama has sealed their voices. This was also part of the test as Adrian and Levin Cloud have interfered with the life cycle of the Queen of the Alluring Forest by too much. She should be the only one deciding what to do with her remaining life.

"Can I at least have at least one day in the body of a mortal to spend with my beloved?" The Queen of the Alluring Forest asked King Yama with a clear conscience and heart.

The Queen of the Alluring Forest wanted to at least spend one day as a mortal to feel the embrace of her beloved. She would then tell him that she will go to a faraway place, but she will leave her a plant monster that will take care of him in her stead. She planned to at least be by her beloved's side despite not truly being with one heart with him.

"I can grant that wish by that much, but you must know that your soul will have trouble in the underworld should you finally die. That is the payment for such a wish." King Yama stated, and the Queen of the Alluring Forest nodded in response.

Seeing the Queen of the Alluring Forest agree to his terms, King Yama immediately unfurled the scroll and started to correct the death of the Queen of the Alluring Forest. He then punctured her chest as if he was reaching something inside of her. King Yama then took out the cultivation that the Queen of the Alluring Forest has garnered over the centuries.

The cultivation of the Queen of the Alluring Forest took in the form of a pink chrysanthemum and King Yama used that power to nullify her destined death. The name of the Queen of the Alluring Forest disappeared from the list of beings that will die in that year. Adrian and Levin Cloud are released from their binding spell as they can now freely talk.

The Queen of the Alluring Forest no longer has any cultivation or rather can no longer cultivate as she transformed into a mortal. She still took on the look of her female ghostly form but she is now made of flesh. She felt her face to see if it was real and she cried upon knowing that she could now feel the embrace of her beloved.

"Now go and meet your beloved child. You have limited time if I remember correctly. You are now free from your destined death as well and is now a new being. You are no longer the Queen of the Alluring Forest. Return after a day to this location as the Champion of the Twin Gods and Envoy of the Twin Gods will have word with you." King Yama stated.

pàndá-ñovêi.cóM "Thank you!" The former Queen of the Alluring Forest stated as she ran towards the rendezvous location of her beloved since she was already late.

"Both of you already know the price for doing this ritual. I shall await your aid in my palace when the time comes." King Yama stated.

"Thank you for your help." Adrian stated as he smiled.

"You are more kindhearted than you look." Levin Cloud stated as he smiled.

"I am only giving them the love that they deserve. See you at my place, blessed ones." King Yama stated as he returned back to the underworld with a smile.